

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed from the Patent and Trademark Office on November 18, 2004, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire February 18, 2005.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 13-20 are rejected under 35 USC 102 and/or 35 USC 103. Claims 4, 11 and 12 are objected to for being dependent from one or more rejected base claims, but are otherwise indicated as allowable in paragraph 9 of the Office Action.

In the current paper, Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 3 and 4, thereby placing Claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claims 2 and 5-10 are dependent from Claim 1, and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 3 and 4 are canceled.

In addition, Claims 11 and 12 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 1, thereby placing these claims in condition for allowance.

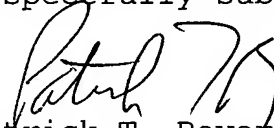
Claims 13-20 are cancelled.

No new matter is entered.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Applicants believe Claims 1, 2 and 5-12 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450 on February 10, 2005.

2/10/2005
Date

Rebecca A. Baumann
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